the DGCI&S. The figures on trade between India and USSR/CIS for the year 1991-92 and during the first five months i* 1992-93 are as follow :—

	(In crore rupees)
	1991-92
Imports from USSR/CIS	1780.26
Exports to USSR/CIS	3967.31
Balance of Trade	+2188.05
	1992-93 (April-August, 92)
Imports from CIS	252.26
Exports to CIS	707.54
Balance of Trade	+451.28

(b) and (c) In the wake of the dissolution of the USSR, the Reserve Bank of India was constrained to hold in abeyance operations of the accounts in India of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR. Consequently, reimbursement of payments *to exporters* was stopped on 27-12-91. Subsequently, the following arrangements were worked out to facilitate payments in respect of trade commitments already made by Indian exporters. The Reserve Bank of India agreed to settle the replenishment claims from authorised dealers in India, maintaining" the accounts of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR, in respect of (i) goods shipped upto 31st December, 1991; (ii) goods shipped after December, 1991 but not later than 31st March, 1992, against Letters of Credit already opened by banks in the erstwhile Soviet Union and advised to the Indian exporters upto 31st December, 1991; and (iii) payment due to Indian project exporters upto 31st December, 1991 and duly certified for payment by the employers. In accordance with these guidelines about Rupees 1312 crores have been paid out to Indian exporters by 30th July, 1992.

Loss of Foreign Exchange due to Export of Commodities at Lower Prices

1645. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAIIRAO SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing much foreign exchange due to export of commodities at lower prices than the production cost by some exporters in order to increase the exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the above foreign exchange loss and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The export pricss are governed by market forces such as demand and supply in the international markets, Quality standards, brand loyalty, market strategies, etc. and are not controlled by the Government. The prices vary from commodity to commodity and for a commodity, from time to time. Hence it is difficult to comment on the fact whether exporters are exporting at lower prices than production costs, as this cannot be easily ascertained from the market.

(b) The Government has brought some commodities under the discipline of Minimum Export Prices under which they cannot be exported at prices below the Minimum Export Price fixed by the relevant authority. Besides, a reasonable foreign exchange realisation is indirectly ensured by imposing export obligations under various schemes such as Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Input-Output and Value-addition norms under Duty Exemption Scheme, Value-addition norms for 100 percent Export Oriented Units, and Export Processing Zones, etc.

कृषि जन्य वस्तुओं का निर्यात

1646. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार कृषि जन्य वस्तुओं के निर्यात पर विशेष जोर दे